

The above cited passage is not entirely accurate. It is correct that the extender 6 and the layer 5 are of the same material. However, neither the layer 5, nor the extender, have a low melting point. In fact, the layer 5 and extender 6 do not melt at all. Olsen uses a support sheet that has a monolayer of transparent microspheres embedded therein. Printed imagewise on top of that is one or more color layers prepared from a polyester resin and an isocyanate hardener. On top of that, is a layer of corresponding two-component extender. In order to secure the glass microspheres in the transfer, Olsen uses as the color layer and the extender layer a strongly hardening polymer which becomes stiff and glassy and will not melt again even at high temperatures. This is not advantageous when the transfer is to be applied to flexible textiles, but is taken into account in order to obtain retroreflective images. Therefore, even if one were to print a color image on top of the microspheres by using a digital color printer, as alleged by Olsen, and cover the color layer by a two-component extender as used by Olsen, it would be difficult to print the picture on the glass microspheres and the toners would, at least partially, pass through the extender layer thereby distorting the image.

Admittedly, Olsen alleges that it is also possible to use a color copier with two-component toner for applying the color coatings (see Olsen, page 15, lines 32-35). However, this is nothing more than an example of an inventor trying to broaden his invention beyond what has been enabled by the disclosure, because two-component toners for a color copier do not exist. In fact, the toners are one-component (thermoplastic) toners that are applied by electrostatic projection of the powdery toner and fixed by melting of the toner during the passage of hot rollers. The same is true for all other known electrostatic color copiers.

Applicant apologizes for any confusion the above-noted inaccuracy may have caused to the Examiner.

**Conclusion**


With these amendments Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any further questions arise, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612/332-5300

Date: June 2, 2000

  
John J. Gresens  
Reg. No. 33,112  
JJG/JAL